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INFO GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,L 03,INR 07,P 04,CIA 04
DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAH 03,AID 30,SAL 01,RSR 01,NIC 01,/140 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8710
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4534
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2745
AMCONSUL DANANG 1100

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 1/21/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8373

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: OPPOSITION STATEMENTS

REF: SAIGON 7707

1. PROCESS OF ORGANIZATION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS TO GVN CONTINUING, LARGELY ALONG LINES INDICATED IN REFTEL. WHILE OPPOSITION GROUPS NATURALLY CRITICAL OF SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF GVN ACTIONS AND ARE STILL ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE TO ELECTION OUTCOME, RECENT STATEMENTS ARE COMPARATIVELY MODERATE.

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2. "DEMOCRATIC FRONT" OF TRUONG DINH DZU AND PHAN KHAC SUU ISSUED PROCLAMATION OCT 9 WHICH REITERATED FRONT REJECTION OF SEPT 3 ELECTIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROMISED FORMATION OF "AN OPEN AND LEGAL OPPOSITION". ACCORDING NOO

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PRESS ACCOUNT, COMMUNIQUE SAID DEMOCRATIC FRONTWILL SEEK 1) ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADLY-BASED LEGAL OPPOSITION, 2) PROTECTION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES RECOGNIZED BY CONSTITUTION, AND 3) CONVENING OF A "NATIONAL POLITICAL CONGRESS" (APPARENTLY AS THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL STEP IN FORMATION OF LEGAL OPPOSITION MOVEMENT).

3. COMMUNIQUE ALSO INCLUDES DEMANDS THAT "INTERESTED AUTHORITIES" IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN "ILLEGALLY ARRESTED" (INCLUDING "STUDENTS AND PEOPLE" WHO DEMONSTRATED AGAINST SEPT 3 ELECTIONS AND "BUDDHISTS AND FAITHFUL WHO STRUGGLED FOR ELECTION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY") IT ALSO "STRONGLY PROTESTS" SUSPENSION OF "OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS", AND DEMANDS THAT GOVERNMENT RESPECT

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BASIC RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY CONSITTUTION

4. STATEMENT IS REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY PHAN KHAC SUU, VU HONG KHANH AND TRUONG DINH DZU, REPRESENTING RESPECITVELY THE "NEW CITIZEN MOVEMENT" (PAPER ORGANIZATION RECENTLY CREATED BY SUU), VNQDD AND UNITED NATIONAL FRON. IT ALSO BEARS SIGNATURES OF DEMOCRATIC FRON STALWARTS TRAN VAN CHIEU (DZU'S RUNNINGMATE), HONG NGOC, AND NGUYEN THANH DANH. IN ADDITION SEVERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, ALL OPPONENTS OF VALIDATION, SIGNED: SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN THANH VINH (A SUPPORTER OF SUU), LY VAN HIEP, TRUONG MINH CHIEU, DO AI, TRONG VAN THONG, LE NGUYEN LONG, VO THUONG KINH, AND MRS DEPUTIES BANH NGOC QUI AND NGUYEN VAN SANG.

. VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS OF COT 12 CARRY A JOINT DECLARATION SIGNED BY NGUYEN NGOC AN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FORCE FOR PROTECTION OF FREEDOM, NGUYEN KHAC THANH, CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH, AND CO VAN HAI, SRECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST

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PARTY OF VIET-NAM (SOUTHERN BRANCH). DECLARATION STATES THAAT, IN ORDER TO CREATE A PROGRESSIVE, DEMOCRATIC AND JUST "SECOND REPUBLIC", GOVERNMENT MUST FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT THE CONSTITUTION AND STRENGTHEN RESPECT FOR LAW BY 1) RELEASING "PATRIOTIC CITIZEN WHO STRUGGLED AGAINST RIGGED ELECTIONS", 2) RESTORE FREEDOM OF PRESS AND PUBLISHING BY SUCH CONCRETE ACTIONS AS ALLOWING PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO REOPEN, AND 3) END "POLICE STATE" ACTIONS, WHICH WEAKEN SPIRIT OF UNITY AND ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE.

6. DECLARATION GOES ON TO STATE THAT INORDER TO RESTORE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE AND RE-ESTABLISH NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, FUTURE GOVERNMENT MUST 1) INCLUDE PERSONS OF PRESTIGE, HONESTY AND ABILITY WHO ARE CONCERNED FOR DESTINY OF NATION AND 2) TAKE REALISTIC STEPS TO SHOW THAT IT DARES TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, "PARTICULARLY AT LEADERSHIP LEVEL", ELIMINATE BULLIES, AND CARRY OUT A TRUE SOCIAL REVOLUTION FOR EARLY RETORATION OF PEACE IN HONOR AND FREEDOM.

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7. COMMENT: A) DEMOCRATIC FRONT STATEMENT IS RELATIVELY MODERATE AND POSITIVE IN TONE. ITS ANNOUNCED GOAL, FORMATION OF A BORADLY-BASED OPPOSITION MOVEMENT, IS PRAISEWORTHY BUT IS PERHAPS TOO GRANDIOSE AN OBJECTIVE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT. DURABILITY OF AN ALLIANCE OF THELIKES OF TRUONG DINH DZU, VU HONG KHANH AND PHAN KHAC SUU IS QUESTIONABLE TO SAY THE LEAST.

B) IT SEEM UNLIKELY THAT PARTICPATION OF MRS DEPUTIES QUI AND SANG IN DEMOCRATIC FRON STATEMENT REPRESENTS FORMAL AFFILIATION OF MRS WITH THE FRONT. JOINTDECLARATION SIGNED BY MRS CHAIRMAN NGUYEN KHAC THANH IS PROBABLY A MORE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF MRS POSITION AND BETTER INDICATION OF DIRECTION IT WILL TAKE. IT IS ALSO POSITIVE IN TONE, AND CONFINES ITSELF TO MORE IMMEDIATE AND REALISTIC MATTERS THAN DOES DEMOCRATIC FRON STATEMENT. CALL FOR INCLUSION OF PRESTIGIOUS NAND CAPABLE PATTRIOTS IN

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GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE [illegible] AS SUPPORT FOR APPOINTMENT OF [illegible] TRAN VAN HUONG TO HIGH OFFICE. (LANGUAGE USED IN DECLARATION,

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"RESTORATION OF PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE" AND "RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY", IS VERY SIMILAR TO MAIN THEME OF HUONG-TAUYEN CAMPAIGN. I DECLARATION DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT MRS, FORCE FOR PROTECTION OF FREEDOM AND SOCIALISTS PLAN TO FORM A UNIFIED OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, [illegible] THEY ARE PROBABLY MORE COMPATIBLE THAN THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRON (ALL THREE ARE SOUTHERN-ORIENTED) AND MAY BE MORE LIKELY THAN THE FRON TO DEVELOP INTO A VIABLE, IF SMALL, OPPOSITION ORGANIZATION.

C. THE MORE IMMEDIATE AND REALISTIC NATURE OF JOINT DECLARATION MAY ALSO REFLECT A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF MRS IN TERMS OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN NEW THIEU GOVERNMENT. POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT, IF MRS DOES NOT RECEIVE SATISFACTION IN GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS, IT MIGHT TAKE MORE OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION SIMILAR TO DZU-SUU DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

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NOTE: AS RECEIVED
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW

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